

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W  
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R 121928Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1587

SECDEF/WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR/SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 1250

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING 11 FEBRUARY 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP MET UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF GREEK REP (DOUNTAS) AND APPROVED TEXT OF NEXT ALLIED PLENARY STATEMENT TO INCLUDE PERCENTAGE FIGURES IN REFERENCE TO POST-1968 WARSAW PACT INCREASES ON A ONE-TIME BASIS. GROUP HEARD REPORTS OF SOVIET/FRT, UK/FRG/BULGARIAN, BELGIAN/ROMANIAN, AND US/ROMANIAN (SEPTTEL) BI-LATERALS. CANADIAN REP REPORTED STRONG CHINESE INTERVENTION WITH CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA ON SOVIET ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN MBFR WITH CHINESE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF ANY WITHDRAWN RUSSIAN FORCES TO CHINESE BORDER. ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIEFING OF NATO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION 22 FEB WERE APPROVED. END SUMMARY.

DATES OF PLENARIES:

1. BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) SAID POLES HAD INFORMED HIM THAT EASTERN SIDE WILL HAVE A SPEAKER AT PLENARY ON 12 FEB, BUT BELGIAN

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REP EXPRESSED OPINION THAT EAST MAY WISH TO POSTPONE THEIR STATE-

MENT TO 14 FEBRUARY WHEN THEY LEARN THAT ALLIES WILL SPEAK ON 12 FEBRUARY. US DEPREP SUGGESTED THAT IN LATTER EVENTUALITY ALLIES SHOULD ALSO SCHEDULE THEIR STATEMENT FOR 14 FEB, TO WHICH AD HOC GROUP AGREED.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT PLENARY TEXT AND USE OF 1968 DATA:

2. CHAIRMAN (GREEK REP DOUNTAS) ASKED US REP IF HE HAD NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON BRACKETED PASSAGES IN PROPOSED PLENARY STATEMENT. US REP REPLIED ON BASIS OF DEPT INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 27322). HE NOTED THAT WASHINGTON CONTINUED TO HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS ON IDEA OF REFERENCE TO INCREASE IN SOVIET FORCES AS CREATING UNSIRABLE OPENING FOR POLEMICS. IF GROUP INSISTED ON REFERENCE TO FORCE INCREASE, WASHINGTON STRONGLY PREFERRED ADJECTIVAL DESCRIPTIONS OF MAGNITUDE OF SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT FORCE INCREASES. WASHINGTON WOULD IN EXTREME CASE BE PREPARED TO USE NUMBERS BUT ONLY ON BASIS OF ONE-TIME USE AND ON CONDITION THAT NO RESPONSE BE MADE TO ANY WARSAW PACT RETORT. US REP ASKED FOR VIEWS OF GROUP AS TO USE OF ADJECTIVES OR NUMBERS. NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) AND CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) THANKED US AUTHORITIES FOR MEETING GROUP'S DESIRE TO REFER TO SOVIET FORCE INCREASES AND EXPRESSED THEIR ACQUIESCENCE TO USE OF ADJECTIVAL TERMS SUCH AS "SIGNIFICANT" OR "SUBSTANTIAL."

3. UK REP (ROSE) THANKED US REP FOR HIS COOPERATION IN SECURING ACCEPTANCE BY WASHINGTON OF INCLUSION OF PASSAGE ON PACT FORCE INCREASES. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY URGED THAT ALLIED SIDE INDULGE IN SOME SMALL MEASURE OF POLEMICS CONCERNING PAST INCIDENTS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO WARSAW PACT STAND THAT PRESENT FORCE RELATIONSHIP WAS SANCTIFIED BY HISTORY, BUT HE HAD WITHDRAWN THIS SUGGESTION. HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN RAKING UP THE PAST, NOR TO MAKE REFERENCE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DID NOT WANT TO START AN EXCHANGE OF POLEMICS WITH THE EASTERN SIDE. HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH SUBSTITUTION OF ADJECTIVAL TERMS SUCH AS "SUBSTANTIAL" OR "SIGNIFICANT" FOR PERCENTAGE. THE FORCE OF THE ALLIED ARGUMENT WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED THEREBY. IF THIS WAS THE ONLY TIME THIS REFERENCE WAS TO BE USED, IT WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT IT BE MADE IN CONCRETE TERMS AND SHOULD BE ON THE RECORD WITHOUT ROOM FOR DOUBT. TERMS "SUBSTANTIAL" OR "SIGNIFICANT" WOULD BE LOST IN A MASS OF WORDS. HE ACCEPTED LIMITATION TO ONE-TIME USE BUT BELIEVED THAT THIS LIMITATION SHOULD APPLY ONLY TO PLENARIES; DELEGATIONS

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SHOULD BE FREE TO USE THIS POINT IN INFORMAL BILATERALS ON INFORMAL BASIS AS THEY HAVE DONE SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST.

4. FRG ACTING REP (HOFMANN) EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR UK POSITION, ADDING THAT USE OF ADJECTIVAL TERMS MIGHT LEAD RUSSIANS TO THINK THAT THE ALLIES DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT FIGURES OR ACTUALLY UNLEASH MORE BACK AND FORTH DISCUSSION THAN USE OF FIGURES. ITALIAN ACTING REP (TALIANI) SUPPORTED UK POSITION AND ADDED THAT AL-

LIES ARE BEING ACCUSED BY THE SOVIETS AS UNTRUSTWORTHY AND AS INTENDING TO INCREASE EUROPEAN FORCES BEFORE THE SECOND PHASE. THE BEST REPLY TO THESE CHARGES WOULD BE TO POINT OUT THAT SOVIETS HAD INCREASED THEIR FORCES AFTER THE ALLIES HAD PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS.

5. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, US REP AGREED ON USE OF PERCENTAGE FIGURES, IN VIEW OF EVIDENT PREFERENCE IN GROUP, BUT STRESSED WASHINGTON'S CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A POLEMICAL EXCHANGE. BECAUSE OF THIS HE WISHED TO URGE GROUP TO USE THIS POINT IN BILATERALS IF AT ALL ONLY IN SUCH A WAY, AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AS TO AVOID POLEMICAL EXCHANGE. US REP ALSO SUGGESTED MINOR CHANGE IN LANGUAGE TO MAKE CLEARER THAT WARSAW PACT OVERALL INCREASE OF 12 PERCENT WAS DUE ENTIRELY TO INCREASE IN SOVIET FORCES OF 25 PERCENT. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT BRACKETS NOW REMOVED FROM PARAS 8 AND 9 AND MINOR AMENDMENT IN WORDING SUGGESTED BY US REP WAS ACCEPTED. HE STATED THAT GROUP AGREED ON ONE-TIME USE IN PLENARY AND THAT POINT SHOULD BE USED IN BILATERALS ONLY IN NON-POLEMICAL WAY AND WITH DISCRETION.

BILATERALS:

6. FRG ACTING REP REPORTED FRG DELEGATION CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) ON 8 FEBRUARY, DURING WHICH KHLESTOV DESCRIBED ALLIED PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL AS "PRIMITIVE," "LUDICROUS" AND A "TRICK WHICH A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COULD SEE THROUGH." KHLESTOV JOKED THAT

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ACTION ACDA-19

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USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

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R 121928Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 1250

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

BOTH SIDES AGREED ON "CEILINGS" AS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. "YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A COMMON CEILING, AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS," HE SAID. "LET'S DISCUSS CEILINGS IN THIS SENSE."

7. UK REP REPORTED ON DISCUSSION WHICH HE AND FRG REP (BEHREND) HAD HAD WITH BULGARIAN REP (DICHEV) WHO REPORTED THAT ALL WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS HAD HAD A MEETING ON 7 FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS THE 6 FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING WITH THE ALLIES AND HAD REACHED THREE CONCLUSIONS: (A) ALLIED PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL WAS A STEP BACKWARD, (B) IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION WARSAW PACT SHOULD INSIST ON DISCUSSING EUROPEAN FORCE REDUCTIONS FROM THE START, (C) THE GATHERINGS SHOULD CONTINUE,  
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SINCE THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE TO THE INFORMAL SETTING. THE LAST POINT HAD BEEN AGREED BY THE PACT OVER THE STRONG OBJECTIONS OF THE ROMANIANS. BELGIAN REP EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR US REP HAVING CIRCULATED REPORT OF ROMANIAN BILATERAL ON FEB 8 SINCE HAD ALSO BEEN VISITED BY ROMANIAN REP, WHO HAD TAKEN EXACTLY THE SAME LINE.

FLANK ISSUE -- CHINESE APPROACH TO CANADIANS:

8. CANADIAN REP REPORTED THAT CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA HAD BEEN INVITED BY CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO DINNER AT WHICH HE WAS SOLE FOREIGN GUEST. CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAD HARANGUED HIM FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON NEGATIVE SOVIET MOTIVES IN MBFR TALKS. CHINESE WARNED CANADIAN THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT TRUST THE RUSSIANS AND ADDED THAT IF THE RUSSIANS ACTUALLY DID WITHDRAW ANY TROOPS, THEY WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CHINESE BORDER.

VISIT OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS:

9. FRG ACTING REP ANNOUNCED THAT UK MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HAD CANCELLED HIS PARTICIPATION BECAUSE OF IMPENDING UK ELECTION AND DELEGATION NOW CONSISTED OF FIVE MEMBERS. DELEGATION HAD AGREED TO 10:30 A.M. COLLECTIVE BRIEFING ON MORNING OF 22 FEBRUARY BUT RESERVED RIGHT TO MEET WITH OWN DELEGATIONS INDIVIDUALLY. FRG REP WOULD INVITE DELEGATION TO DINNER THAT EVENING SINCE RAPPORTEUR OF GROUP WAS MEMBER OF FRG BUNDESTAG.

10. AD HOC GROUP AGREED TO MEET ON 12 FEBRUARY.HUMES

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## Message Attributes

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